



2019  
2020

Annual Report

[ceci.ca](http://ceci.ca)

Photo  
Andrej Ivanov / CECI

◀ **OUR MISSION** ▶

Combat poverty,  
exclusion  
and inequality.

◀ **OUR VISION** ▶

A world without  
poverty that is  
egalitarian, inclusive  
and celebrates diversity.

◀ **OUR VALUES** ▶

Cooperation  
Respect  
Equity  
Commitment  
Integrity



# Combating Exclusion



**Danielle Lamy**  
President



**Claudia Black**  
Executive Director

Six years ago, CECI launched its 2014-2020 Strategic Plan in the wake of the adoption of the 2030 agenda, which fuelled a shift of paradigm by introducing the notion of universally applicable Sustainable Development Goals. This was followed by the historic Paris Agreement, and soon after, the roll-out of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy. Several worldwide citizen-led movements also gained traction, through social media, to address critical issues such as gender-based violence (#MeToo), climate justice (#FridaysForFuture), and systemic racism (#BlackLivesMatter). Conversely, in some influential countries, there has been a push towards isolation, driven by populist and nationalist movements, calling into question the gains in openness and international responsibility regarding the causes of development and social justice.

In the regions where we work, countries have continued to face multidimensional crises with cross effects, such as rampant insecurity, chronic socio-political conflict, the climate crisis, poverty and social injustice, and the erosion of civic spaces and freedom. At the same time, these countries have undergone mutations of their socio-economic and institutional landscape, with a vibrant, confident and activist civil society, strong governments, as well as a private sector and social entrepreneurs that are resilient and innovative.

In the midst of such profound mutations and paradoxes in the international landscape, CECI has mobilized change agents, resources and expertise to address the challenges of poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

CECI's 2019-2020 Annual Report highlights, through concrete examples, our approaches to innovation, inclusive economies, women's economic empowerment, and resilience to climate change, with a view to advancing sustainable solutions for poverty reduction, and greater equality and inclusion. To do so, we work with the most vulnerable and marginalized people: we equip them with knowledge and skills, and

engage them to combat all forms of exclusion and discrimination (whether based on sex, age, ethnic or cultural background, social class or caste, sexual identity or orientation, or physical or intellectual disability) for an inclusive, rights based sustainable development.

This has been a year of transition for CECI. With the end of the Uniterria Program, we successfully closed a major volunteer cooperation program that operated in 14 countries to improve the living conditions of millions of marginalized people, and mobilized thousands of Canadians. We also launched a new seven-year volunteer cooperation program and worked with all our country teams to develop a new ambitious strategic framework to guide our actions until 2025. And then, in early 2020, a new reality set in with the global COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis and the health, economic and social repercussions it has brought knows no borders, reminding us of the need for international solidarity in facing global challenges together. And while such repercussions threaten the progress made in recent decades for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, especially women and girls, we are convinced, now more than ever, that we must continue pursuing our mission. We celebrate the resilience of our entire international network, which has enabled us to adapt and adjust to this complex and difficult situation.

Without the combined strength of our committed teams, partners, volunteers, Board of Directors, country advisory committees, members, ambassadors, financial partners and donors, the work of CECI would not be possible.

It is a privilege to work together to create a better and more inclusive world.

Thank you!



# 2014-2020 Strategic Plan Review

In 2014, CECI launched an ambitious initiative to create an international CECI that rallies agents of change, both in the South and in the North, to promote sustainable socio-economic development, reduce poverty, foster gender equality, and increase the security of the most vulnerable populations. In the past six years, we have mobilized resources and expertise to implement our development and humanitarian assistance projects as well as our volunteer cooperation program in 23 countries.

Within our programs and our organization, we have adopted concrete measures to strengthen implementation and monitoring in support of the rights of women and girls, and of their role as agents of social change, to empower them to take action, while taking into consideration the range of challenges they face. We have collaborated with hundreds of organizations and local civil society networks, including women's and girls' organisations, producer organizations, schools, and public- and private-sector partners to achieve inclusive development results in each of our areas of expertise:



Photo  
Meagan Hancock / CECI



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# 600,000

women saw their incomes increase significantly, created and consolidated businesses that are financially resilient, and were able to access gainful and dignified employment. Our actions have strengthened women's economic empowerment by supporting more inclusive markets and an environment that responds to their needs and interests, as well as building their management skills and self-confidence. They are aware of their own negotiation power, and are better positioned to claim their rights.



## FOOD SECURITY

# 200,000

women gained greater access to, and control over, fertile land, as well as improved access to inputs, knowledge, innovation and financial capital. They now have greater control over the use and sale of agricultural produce, particularly in sectors traditionally dominated by men. In countries where agriculture represents the pillar of the economy, this transformation of power between women and men ensures greater food security and creates a more solid basis for agriculture that is sustainable and resilient to climate change.



## HUMAN SECURITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# 1M+

women and young girls facing acute and complex crises were able to bounce back, rebuild their livelihoods and build resilience against future shocks. Networks of thousands of committed women and men rallied together to combat gender-based violence, change laws and ensure that their rights are protected, promoted and exercised.



## GENDER EQUALITY

# 4.5M+

people participated in CECI's activities, over 52% of whom were women and young women, which have contributed to building a fairer world, and a culture of rights and diversity.

# 19M+

people were reached indirectly, through participants' families, professional circles and communities.

**OUR PROGRAMMING HAS FURTHER BEEN ENHANCED BY OUR ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSFORMATION, WHICH HAS ENABLED CECI TO:**

**→ TRANSFORM ITS COUNTRY OFFICES INTO SELF-SUFFICIENT, NATIONAL ENTITIES IN CHARGE OF DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PROGRAMMING**

CECI has developed capacities and working methods that are aligned with its decentralized approach, so that it may evolve into an international network of interdependent peers, rooted in local civil society. Concretely, eight country offices (Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Mali, Nepal and Senegal), which have been operating for over 20 years, are now responsible for the design and implementation of their national programming strategy. They have each created an advisory committee, which plays an advisory role to the country-team and CECI's international head office.

**→ TRANSFORM CECI'S GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURES**

In 2015, in order to support inclusive governance, CECI broadened its voting membership beyond the existing group of highly engaged individuals. Our members now include civil society organizations in Quebec and the rest of Canada, international members, and representatives from advisory committees in the countries where we operate.

**→ INCREASE THE DIVERSIFICATION OF FUNDING**

Targeting increased financial resilience and independence, CECI achieved a revenue diversification ratio for its programs ranging from 44% to 57%, by collaborating with more than a dozen new international financial partners, as well as growing individual and event-based fundraising.

**→ EXPAND CECI'S REACH**

CECI intensified its media presence by running television campaigns and interacting with its network through social media. In doing so, it informed, mobilized and raised awareness among millions of Canadians on development issues and the importance of international solidarity.



# 2020-2025

**INNOVATE   MOBILIZE   TRANSFORM**

Drawing on its strong development results and new organizational structure, CECI is now entering a new strategic phase for 2020-2025, which aims to:

**CONSOLIDATE OUR APPROACHES AND EXPERTISE:**

- Women's economic empowerment and rights
- Women, resilience and climate action
- Community adaptation in fragile contexts

**BY FOCUSING ON :**

- Learning and innovation
- Advocacy to influence and change
- Mobilization and outreach
- New funding models for development
- An international, interdependent and inclusive network



**An international CECI based on a strong network, that rallies key agents of change throughout the world and advances sustainable solutions to reduce poverty and strengthen equality and inclusion.**

Photo  
Andrej Ivanov / CECI





1920

465,789

people participated in activities, 65% of whom were women and young women

3M+

people were reached indirectly, through participants' families, professional circles and communities.

# CECI's Actions in the World

## Africa

### BENIN

#### 7 VOLUNTEERS

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- Women's Entrepreneurship in the Rice Industry (PAEFFR)

### BURKINA FASO

#### 26 VOLUNTEERS

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- Enhancing Women's Resilience to Climate Change in the Shea Sector in Burkina Faso (PCCI)
- West Africa Governance & Economic Sustainability (WAGES)
- Modernization of Traditional Poultry Farming (PMAT)
- Equity Support through Institutional and Technical Reform Project (PARITÉ)

• Uniterra Program

VOLUNTEER COOPERATION

### BURUNDI

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- Educating Girls for a Better Future in the African Great Lakes region (ÉDUFAM)

### GHANA

#### 48 VOLUNTEERS

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- West Africa Governance & Economic Sustainability (WAGES)
- Uniterra Program

VOLUNTEER COOPERATION

### GUINEA

#### 7 VOLUNTEERS

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- West Africa Governance & Economic Sustainability (WAGES)
- Project to Support Revenue-Generating Activities in Communities Located in Extractive Areas (PA-AGR)
- Restoration and Improvement of Livelihood (PRAMS)

### MALAWI

#### 53 VOLUNTEERS

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- Uniterra Program

VOLUNTEER COOPERATION

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### MALI

- Youth Employment and Skills (PROCEJ)
- Evacuation of Mothers in Five Districts of the Kayes Region (MÉDIK)
- Feere Diyara - Project to support food security
- Armande Bégin Fund
- Justice, Prevention and Reconciliation (JUPREC)
- Support for Food Security and Access to Water for Vulnerable Women and Men Affected by Conflict in the Timbuktu and Mopti Region **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**
- Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL - Musoya)

### NIGER

- Agricultural Support Services (SAA)

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- Educating Girls for a Better Future in the African Great Lakes Region (ÉDUFAM)

### RWANDA

- Educating Girls for a Better Future in the African Great Lakes Region (ÉDUFAM)

### SENEGAL

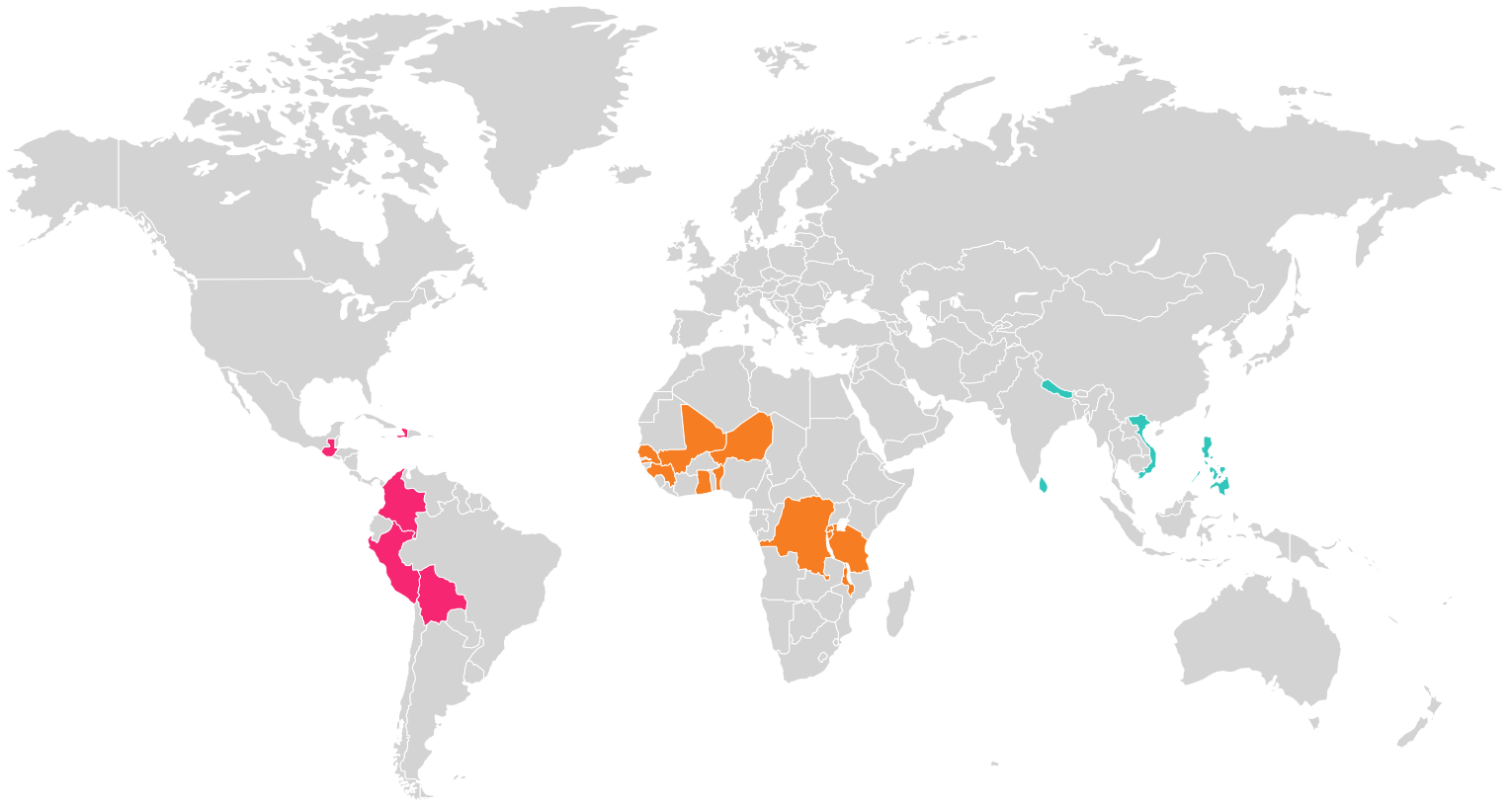
#### 69 VOLUNTEERS

- Resilient Women and Agriculture (FAR)
- Integrated Resilience Garden (JIR)
- Québec Without Borders: "Women and Entrepreneurship: Non-Traditional Jobs for Sustainable Economic Development" **VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**
- Québec Without Borders: "Young Entrepreneurs: The Power of Regional Development" **VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**
- Uniterra Program **VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**
- Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL - Senegal)

### TANZANIA

#### 49 VOLUNTEERS

- Uniterra Program **VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**



# Americas

## BOLIVIA 40 VOLUNTEERS

• Women and Indigenous Youth Involvement in Community Development in Zongo and Hampaturi, Bolivia

• Québec Without Borders: "Handicrafts: Between Traditions and the Next Generation"

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

• Humanitarian Response to Forest Fires in the Amazon

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

## COLOMBIA

• Strengthening Resilience and the Protection of Displaced Migrant Women and Girls

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

## GUATEMALA 28 VOLUNTEERS

• Equal Rights and Justice for Indigenous Women and Girls in Guatemala (DEMUJERES)

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

• Rural Business Development Program (PDER)

## HAITI 27 VOLUNTEERS

• Climate Adaptation and Economic Development of Haiti's Agricultural Sectors (AVETI)

• Employability Support for Young Women in Non-Traditional Trades in the Cité de l'Éternel

• Food Assistance for Households with the Greatest Food Insecurity in the Nord Department

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

• Fighting Climate Change in the Nord Department (KLIMA)

• Partnerships for Strengthening Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (ACOSME)

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

• Water Management Program in the Artibonite Basin (PROGEBa)

• Technological Innovation Program for Agriculture and Agroforestry (PITAG)

• Strengthening Public Agricultural Services: Agricultural Incentives and Farmer Field Schools in the Centre Department (RESEPAg)

• Strengthening Public Agricultural Services: Irrigation (RESEPAg)

• Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL - Haiti)

## PERU 37 VOLUNTEERS

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

# Asia

## NEPAL 44 VOLUNTEERS

• Support for the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVP)

• Livelihood Promotion for Earthquake Affected Populations in Nepal (Punarnirman)

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

• Sajhedari: Support to Federalism (STF)

• Sustainable use of Technology for Public Sector Accountability (Susasan)

## PHILIPPINES 3 VOLUNTEERS

• Economic Recovery and Risk Mitigation in the Philippines (TUKOD)

## SRI LANKA 27 VOLUNTEERS

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

## VIETNAM 58 VOLUNTEERS

• Unitererra Program

**VOLUNTEER COOPERATION**

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# Building Inclusive Economies, with Volunteer Support

Photo  
Frédéric Seguin / CECI

Women and youth play a key role in the economy. However, many women face major obstacles to achieving their full economic potential – limited job opportunities, limited access to resources, little influence in decision making, and discrimination – all of which prevents them from fully participating in their community and country’s economy.

From 2015 to 2020, the Uniterra Program contributed to improving the living conditions of some of the poorest populations by stimulating growth and ensuring that the most vulnerable people in 14 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas would benefit from developing markets. Taking an approach rooted in existing market systems, the program expanded economic opportunities for women and youth while supporting the creation of an inclusive environment for women and youth where they can be influential. The program partnered with public and private actors, non-profit organisations, associations and educational service providers in various economic sectors. Program volunteers shared their skills, know-how and experiences so that these partners could reach their strategic and operational objectives, and thereby stimulate growth. At the same time, the program addressed the economic and social challenges leading to the marginalization of people from growing economies.

## UNITERRA PROGRAM NUMBERS (2015-2020)

**2,511**

VOLUNTEER MANDATES  
(63% WOMEN)

**246**

LOCAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

**2.8M**

PEOPLE DIRECTLY REACHED BY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES (61% WOMEN AND 54% YOUTH) IN 14 COUNTRIES

**9.8M**

PEOPLE IN CANADA SENSITIZED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE UNITERRA PROGRAM WAS IMPLEMENTED BY WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE OF CANADA (WUSC) AND CECI, AND RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA.



# Guatemala

## Promoting Equality in the Coffee Sector

Photo  
Benoit Aquin / CECI



In Guatemala, the coffee sector provides a living for some 125,000 families and generates more than half a million jobs. This sector is traditionally rife with inequality and discrimination toward the most vulnerable. Uniterra Program volunteers supported the *Asociación nacional de café* (ANACAFÉ), one of the country's most powerful private associations, made up of 340,000 producers, in developing and disseminating a gender equality policy within the sector. This year, the nation-wide policy was finalized, and an implementation plan was developed. This is a major achievement which will positively affect how women and youth are treated, recognized and valued by everyone involved in the sector.

*“As a volunteer advisor for the economic empowerment of Indigenous women and youth, I worked with groups of Indigenous women from Atitlán Lake, which is the most vulnerable and marginalized group in Guatemala. Machismo is one of the main obstacles preventing women from acquiring new skills. I think that for women, the most significant results have been the improvements made to how their businesses operate, and in their family, professional and community environments, because they have a better understanding of their rights. I think this shows that while there is still much to do, volunteers do make a huge contribution.”*

ANA CARAVANTES,  
UNITERRA PROGRAM VOLUNTEER IN GUATEMALA

*“Our collective brings together young entrepreneurs in various fields, including rice merchants, street vendors, and garment makers. With the Uniterra Program, the members of our collective who wanted to get into entrepreneurship received training through which they developed business plans and funding strategies. Those who already had businesses received training to improve their financial management skills.”*

MOUHAMADOU MOUSTAPHA GUEYE,  
COLLECTIF DES GROUPEMENTS ASSOCIATIFS DE PIKINE  
INTERNATIONAL (COGAPI)

# Senegal

## Women and Youth Entrepreneurship in the Rice Industry

Rice is a staple food for people in Senegal. This industry holds strategic importance for the country's jobs and food security; however, it must compete with imported rice. The efforts made by the Senegalese government have sparked renewed interest in local rice, however, a persistent coordination problem remains between production and sales. In order to create more outlets for local rice and improve local sourcing, Uniterra Program volunteers facilitated the signing of agreements between women-run mini-rice mills in the Saint-Louis region and merchants in the Dakar region. This initiative generated new economic opportunities for women and youth through the purchase of a commercial space and the creation of 70 jobs. Each year, this space will be used by 50 young people from Dakar's outskirts to learn about entrepreneurship as well as sales and marketing techniques.



Photo  
Andrej Ivanov / CECI

# Defending the Rights of Women and Girls while Respecting Local Cultures

The statistics on poverty and exclusion among women and girls continue to reveal profound inequalities. In response, CECI continues to promote women's and girls' rights, true to our mission and values, and to build a culture of equality, rights and diversity. CECI opens spaces for dialogue with the communities it supports, and identifies cultural mechanisms that can be leveraged to promote gender equality. For example, by using local stories that resonate with communities, we are able to question gender norms and create more inclusive conditions for everyone. This enables us to incorporate the rich diversity of local cultures into our projects with a view to building more inclusive, long-lasting practices.

Photo  
Kiran Ambwani / CECI

## JUPREC PROJECT NUMBERS (2014-2020)

**1.3M**

MALIANS RECEIVED ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

**295,000**

PEOPLE, 55% WOMEN, TOOK PART IN AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

**22,175**

PEOPLE WERE TRAINED AND COACHED

**28**

PEACE COMMITTEES WERE FORMED

**246**

CASES OF VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE WERE BROUGHT TO COURT

THE JUPREC PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS CANADA AND ÉCOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION PUBLIQUE, AND RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROVIDED THROUGH GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA.

## Mali

Justice, Prevention and Reconciliation: Three Interrelated Pillars for the Respect of Human Rights

Since the 2012 political crisis, the situation in Mali has been unstable, due to the absence of justice, good governance and citizen participation. The *Justice, Prevention and Reconciliation* Project, which ended in 2020, aimed to restore respect for the rights of women and minors within the context of the restoration of peace and stability in the country. Over the five years of its implementation, the project supported 28 Peace Committees which have strengthened the participation of women in accessing justice. These committees oversaw conflict prevention and resolution through inclusive mechanisms that were adapted to the needs of local communities. The project also enhanced the involvement of men as allies and co-beneficiaries of gender equality. By targeting a pool of men who are influential in their communities, such as imams, traditional leaders and village chiefs, we advanced local models to inspire other men to change their behaviour. In order to combat gender-based violence, we supported a working group made up of several national and international organizations, and provided coaching to civil society organizations on advocacy work for the adoption of a draft law against gender-based violence.



Photo  
CECI

*"The project enabled us to break taboos about sexual violence against women. It helped victims emerge from the shadows and go toward the light."*

BINTOU FOUNÉ SAMAKÉ,  
PRESIDENT OF WILDAD-MALI

# Guatemala

## Positive Masculinities: A Tool in Support of Indigenous Women's Rights

Guatemalan women and girls are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence, especially femicide and rape, yet the vast majority of these crimes go unpunished. Indigenous women face double exclusion from the legal system, an institution steeped in discrimination and racism. The project on *Equal Rights and Justice for Indigenous Women and Girls in Guatemala* aims to build the capacities of women's organizations and structures supporting victims of sexual violence, in addition to conducting various awareness-raising activities. This year, project activities reached more than 20,000 people, of whom 57% were Indigenous women and girls. The first Mesoamerican meeting on positive masculinities was held, with 107 Indigenous and Mestizo persons from 10 different countries participating. The meeting provided a space for intercultural dialogue to combat hegemonic masculinities and gender-based violence, with the goal of fuelling cultural transformation in support of women's rights. This project is implemented in partnership with Lawyers Without Borders Canada thanks to funding provided by Global Affairs Canada.



*"Since the first Mesoamerican meeting on masculinities, our task is to end machismo so we can build new gender relations. We have to review the way we have been doing things in the community, and ask ourselves whether men will allow women to take part in community organization."*

Photo  
Meagan Hancock / CECI

PEDRO IXCHIÚ,  
SECRETARIAT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

# Haiti, Mali and Senegal

## Making their Voices Heard

In Haiti, Mali and Senegal, women's organizations are facing major financial, legal and sociocultural challenges that are hindering their work for gender equality. CECI is implementing *Women's Voice and Leadership* projects in these three countries, where it supports over 60 women's organizations and 17 advocacy networks in adopting innovative practices that improve their program viability, services, advocacy and social monitoring activities. These actions, funded by Global Affairs Canada, help to strengthen movements for the rights of women and girls around the world.



Photo  
Andrej Ivanov / CECI

# Increasing Women's Economic Empowerment by Building Capacities among Development Stakeholders

CECI aims to take systemic action regarding the complex social, economic, political and environmental obstacles that hinder women's participation in decision-making bodies and limit their economic empowerment. In a context characterized by socio-economic inequalities, it is crucial to develop specific measures to support the weakest section of the population, including women and girls, and to act on the policies, practices and attitudes that reinforce inequality and power relations between women and men. CECI's policy to strengthen the economic empowerment of women and girls leverages actions at three major levels: It aims to empower women, strengthens the capacity of families and communities to react to their needs and interests, and ensures that the market system has the capacity to foster supportive environments for women. Women's economic empowerment has also been an effective strategy for combating poverty, promoting overall economic growth, and improving the general well-being of populations.

Photo  
David Champagne

## Benin

### Producing More Rice to Create Wealth

Parboiled rice represents an economic opportunity for many women in the Collines Department in central Benin. Hundreds of women are specialized in this processing technique to increase their income. The *Women's Entrepreneurship in the Rice Industry* project aims to build the capacity of 5,300 women rice farmers and parboilers in the region so they can become owners of profitable, economically viable and socially just businesses. To lighten women's workloads and produce high-quality rice, two rice processing centres and four irrigation systems are currently under construction. Women from cooperatives have been trained on credit management and, with loans obtained from their financial institution, have been able to market 57 tonnes of parboiled rice this year (up 39% over last year), thereby increasing their profits. This project is funded by Global Affairs Canada and supported by CECI's *Club des ambassadrices*. It is built upon the success and lessons learned from the Women Rice Parboilers Project in Burkina Faso, which ended in 2019.



Photo  
David Champagne

***"With the credit we now have access to, we can pay for quality seed, and women were able to increase their earnings."***

**ODETTE AGOSSO,**  
REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN RICE PARBOILERS OF  
BANTÉ, BENIN



Photo  
Meagan Hancock / CECI

*“Initially, the project primarily aimed to work with women and youth, but in reality, the greatest number of participants were women and youth who faced difficulties integrating groups. We used the project to create different associations. In these groups, women completed training to build their capacities. They are now equipped with tools and earn more income than before.”*

GABRIELA SOLÍZ RUBIN DE CELIS,  
PROJECT COORDINATOR

## Bolivia

### Leveraging Tourism

In Bolivia, tourism has increased faster than local capacity to handle and make the most of it. Tourist interest in adventure, handicrafts and local cuisine is an interesting opportunity for Bolivians struggling to find rewarding long-term employment. In response to this situation, CECL worked with people living in the municipalities of Zongo and Hampaturi to build their capacity in the fields of traditional cuisine, accommodation and tour guide services. Two companies specializing in restaurant services and interpretation of handicrafts have been created. They showcase typical ingredients used by indigenous peoples, including alpaca and llama meat, which attracts tourists. Within the structure of these companies, there has been a focus on including women in leadership roles and other roles traditionally held by men. These achievements have been made possible with funding from the Québec International Development Program, and in partnership with the Uniterria Program, funded by Global Affairs Canada.

## Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea

### Defending the Socio-economic Interests of Communities Living in Extractive Areas

Developing countries with an abundance of mining resources face a number of challenges, such as weak governance structures to ensure that wealth is passed on to local communities, low participation among women and youth in the sector’s decision-making mechanisms, and environmental protection. The *West Africa Governance & Economic Sustainability* project helps communities living in the extractive areas of Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea to maximize the economic and social benefits that locals receive from mining operations, especially women and youth, while ensuring that people’s rights are respected, and the environment protected. This year, in Guinea, 80 young entrepreneurs were trained, equipped and coached to build their own businesses in a wide range of fields, such as farming, processing local products, hygiene, livestock rearing,

restaurant services, and small businesses. The project also facilitated an agreement with authorities to allocate at least 30% of municipal budgets to fund projects submitted by women and youth. This project is implemented in partnership with World University Service Canada, and with financial support from Global Affairs Canada.

*“I had a diploma and no job, and one day I saw a poster at Kasmars town hall about an entrepreneurship training opportunity for women and youth. I signed up immediately. During seven days of intensive classes, I learned how to create my own business. Today, I live with dignity and save 2,500,000 GNF (\$340 Can) per month. I’ve become an independent, responsible woman and I have self-confidence.”*

SARAN DIALLO,  
PROJECT PARTICIPANT IN KAMARS, GUINEA



Photo  
SFIFTY Limited



# Women's Key Role in Adapting to Climate Change

Photo  
Éric St-Pierre

Throughout the world, women are the most affected by climate change. At CECI, we know that building their technical and leadership skills is essential to supporting communities' resilience to the adverse effects of climate change. Women play a central role in their household's food security, and they are particularly well placed to identify and promote innovative farming and agroforestry practices. Our approach draws on local knowledge, encourages women to participate in decision-making processes regarding natural resources, risk and disaster management, and provides them with new sustainable economic opportunities.

## Philippines

Improving Preparedness for Natural Disasters

In 2013, the Visayas region was completely devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most violent ever recorded. The climate projections are clear – typhoons and tropical storms will become increasingly frequent and continue to threaten the Philippines. Local populations and the authorities are looking to improve preparedness in the face of such extreme weather conditions. The *TUKOD* project has mitigated the effects that such disasters have on the lives of the populations, and supported economic recovery. We fostered the development of smart agriculture for resilience to climate change (planting diversified crops and introducing more resistant species), restoring mangroves and raising awareness about sustainable fishing, developing protected marine areas, and supporting micro and small businesses that are ecologically sound. The project also supported the inclusion of women and their needs in evacuation centres, and on risk reduction and management committees and rescue teams.



Photo  
CECI / Concern Inc.

*"We learned that it was better to grow different types of vegetables instead of just one kind. Now we will have something to harvest, no matter what the weather conditions. The *TUKOD* project helped us create a federation of farmers, which had a big impact on members' incomes because intermediaries were eliminated. The federation now controls the market prices and we get our fair share."*

CONCEPTION INDIC,  
PRESIDENT OF SANTA ELENA INTEGRATED FARMERS

### TUKOD PROJECT NUMBERS (2015-2019)

**3,940**

PEOPLE USE NEW,  
MORE RESILIENT FARMING  
TECHNIQUES

**7,555**

PEOPLE, 54% WOMEN,  
TOOK PART IN SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

**162**

SMALL TO MIDSIZE BUSINESSES  
(OF WHICH 36% ARE MANAGED  
BY WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS)  
RECEIVED SUPPORT

**26**

WOMEN WERE TRAINED AS  
LOCAL PRACTITIONERS IN  
RISK AND NATURAL DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS

THE *TUKOD* PROJECT WAS IMPLEMENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CENTER FOR EMERGENCY AID AND REHABILITATION INC. (CONCERN INC.) AND RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THROUGH GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA.



Photo  
Caroline Hayeur / CECI

## Haiti

### Strengthening Ecosystems to Combat Climate Change

Around 98% of Haiti's forests have been cut down in over two centuries of uncontrolled resource exploitation, creating highly fragile ecosystems. Implemented in partnership with Viridis Terra International, the KLIMA project supports the development of a green and sustainable economy in Haiti. By planting energy forests and setting up an organic waste recycling program, the project helps the country in reaching its goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 31% by 2030. The project ensures that youth and women are at the heart of the change process: 87 people, mostly young men and women, were trained on compost production, 87 on growing energy forests, and 71 on using carbonization furnaces. So far, 200 hectares of energy forests have been started. A large-scale sorting and compost centre is under construction and will boost compost production capacity and commercialization from 260 to 700 tonnes in the coming year. The project is funded by the Quebec government through its International Climate Cooperation Program.

*"I did an internship that really helped me gain a deeper understanding of sustainable reforestation. As an agronomist, I am convinced that agriculture is a good means of development. Everything I learned at university was theoretical, but thanks to the KLIMA project, I had the chance to experience very hands-on learning and that will be very useful to me in the future."*

WILFREDNA SAINT-MARTIN,  
MEMBER OF YOUNG AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS OF NORD DEPARTMENT

## Burkina Faso

### Innovative Practices by Women Shea Butter Producers

In Burkina Faso, shea products provide livelihood to 1.5 million people, 90 % of whom are women. However, shea trees face a number of threats (ageing parklands, parasitic infestations, deforestation, and climate change), and the traditional method of producing shea butter burns a great deal of wood fuel and creates waste that is rarely recycled. The goal of the *Shea Resilience* project is to improve resilience and sustainable management in shea parklands, through women's leadership and organizations. Drawing on the scientific expertise of our partner Ouranos and on local knowledge, the project is facilitating the creation of climate scenarios to produce useful information for improving parkland management. Women shea producers have received training that has taught them to interpret and use this information to adapt their activities, while also learning to use production methods that are more environmentally sound. A total of 3,000 women shea producers and 400 households took part in this project. The project is made possible with financial support from the Quebec government through its International Climate Cooperation Program.

*"The project taught women to use new technologies (pyrolytic oven, biochar, briquette machine and briquettes) to recycle waste from the shea butter production process. We have also benefited from training on environmental protection, and on making and using biochar as fuel and fertilizer for the earth and shea farming."*

THÉODULE SOMDA,  
PROJECT PARTICIPANT IN HOUNDÉ



Photo  
Éric St-Pierre

# Laying the Groundwork for Successful Reconstruction: When Long-term Vision Drives Humanitarian Assistance

Photo  
Adolfo Lino

The countries where we work are affected by prolonged conflict, persistent social inequalities, political and economic instability, and climate change. Our humanitarian actions meet immediate needs while at the same time tackling the root causes of problems as a means to fuel long-term change. This nexus of humanitarian development takes three forms: disaster-stricken populations build resilience, facilitating the success of long-term initiatives; our program development incorporates humanitarian analysis for rapid adaptation to crisis situations; and emergency assistance is followed by reconstruction projects to expand the scope of our work. Our initiatives also systematically include a response to gender-based violence toward women, through awareness raising, education and empowerment.

## Haiti

### Sowing Hope: Responding to Food Insecurity

In Haiti, 4.1 million people suffer from food insecurity, amounting to 40% of the population. In response to this issue, CECI was recruited by the World Food Program to implement a *project providing food assistance for households with the greatest food insecurity in the Nord and Nord-est departments*. The project provided food assistance in the form of cash transfers to more than 8,000 households, 39% of which were headed by women. Over one thousand women were also informed about good nutritional practices and the protection of their rights. This project was implemented with financial support from the European Union's ECHO program.



Photo  
Caroline Hayeur / CECI



# Bolivia

## Protecting the Forest and Supporting Indigenous Communities

When raging fires scorched the “lungs of the planet” in summer 2019, CECI rapidly assisted some of the communities affected by this environmental and humanitarian disaster. In this remote area of the country, food and water access is precarious. The *Amazon Emergency* project supported 610 displaced indigenous families, providing them with drinking water, baby formula, hygiene kits, blankets and protective masks. We also provided equipment to firemen and volunteers on the ground fighting the fire, and supported actions to prevent the flames from spreading to Madidi National Park, which is considered to harbour the greatest biodiversity of any national reserve in the world. The project also purchased drones equipped with thermal sensors to fly over the area as a preventative measure to detect any new fires that may have broken out in these remote areas. The project’s response was made possible with the generosity of our donors, who gave \$53,000 in response to an urgent appeal for donations in August 2019.



Photo  
Adolfo Lino



**In 2019-2020, we also wrapped up two reconstruction projects in Nepal and the Philippines, which were a follow-up to our emergency response actions.**

In Nepal, the *Punarnirman* project was implemented in the three districts that were hardest hit in the 2015 earthquake. It supported adoption of more sustainable farming practices, enabled women to start their own businesses, and provided professional skills development.

After Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013, the *TUKOD* project supported agricultural recovery, technical and professional training, and business creation. It also helped to improve the population’s disaster preparedness, focusing on vulnerable women and youth.



# Mali

## A Complex Crisis Calls for a Multi-faceted Response

Mali has been in the throes of a political, humanitarian and security crisis since 2012, marked by increased crime, poor access to water and livelihoods, a high level of insecurity and population displacement. The project *supporting food security and water access for vulnerable women and men affected by the conflict*, launched in 2013, targeted 59 new villages this year in the Mopti and Timbuktu regions, reaching over 65,000 people. It led to the cleaning of 41 kilometres of irrigation canals, the distribution of seeds to 3,400 project participants, the support of 15 women-run community gardens, and the training of 2,400 farmers on water and pest management. Members of 20 well management committees enhanced their skills, and 2,500 people received water purification kits to ensure the availability of drinking water. Lastly, several initiatives to combat gender-based violence were implemented, benefitting 2,111 participants, of whom 1,290 were women. An additional initiative was carried out with 240 men who attended *Husband Schools*. This project was implemented with financial support from USAID through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Photo  
CECI

***“The vegetable seeds that we received from CECI / OFDA were an invaluable help. We started to sell the harvested products, and with the revenues we managed to care for our children and meet the needs of the family. My goal this year is to save some money and buy a bullock. I would like to thank CECI / OFDA for their support for the vegetable gardens and the women [farmers] who are the pillars of the family in rural areas.”***

BAH TANGARA,  
FARMER IN SOMADOUGOU



# Leveraging Technology for Inclusive Civic Engagement

Freedom of information is a fundamental human right. In recent years, the right to information has been recognized by a growing number of countries. According to UNESCO, in 1990, just 13 countries had laws on freedom of information – today, 90 countries do. Yet for too many people in the world, this right remains inaccessible. At CECI, we believe that incorporating information technology and communications into our projects creates new possibilities for civic engagement, and does much to improve living conditions and inclusion for marginalized communities. As part of a holistic approach, the proper use of such technology can bolster democratic transparency, improve health services, defend human rights, and support education.

Photo  
Frédéric Séguin / CECI



Photo  
CECI

## Nepal

### Leveraging Technology for Participatory Democracy

Our work in Nepal aims to connect the population to government authorities – a key issue for the country that is currently completing its democratic transition. By integrating new technology into the decision-making process of local authorities, we make it more transparent and inclusive. We especially encourage women and other marginalized groups to take part in the process so they can defend their own interests. This year, three new community technology centres were set up, and are now facilitating open access to information about local governance, bringing the total number of centres established through the project to 27. Their growing popularity has inspired three neighbouring municipalities to replicate the models with their own funding. In March, the project also set up an online portal for local authorities to update communities on recent developments relating to COVID-19. The portal was so successful that it was reproduced in 23 municipalities, 11 of which

*“The citizens, especially women and marginalized people, are able to raise their voices, demand access to the public budget, and exercise their other rights. We are making the local government’s annual plan and budget completely transparent by using technology and demonstrating our reactivity. Before the project brought in this technology, there was a monopoly and a lack of transparency, accountability and reactivity.”*

**DAMBARI OLI,**  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF NAWADURGA

we are working with directly. Since the start of the project, over 60,000 people participated in our initiatives, 74% of whom were women and marginalized people. The *Susasan* project is implemented in partnership with Young Innovations and Freedom Forum, with financial support from Global Affairs Canada.



Photo  
Andrej Ivanov / CECI

*“The self-assessment helped us strengthen our communication channels, especially through digital innovation, which is within our reach. It also helped us understand that we need a communication strategy for our advocacy efforts to be effective. We are now much more reactive and visible on social media, which, in other words, means that we have more influence.”*

**AIDA DIOP,**  
PRESIDENT OF WIM-SENEGAL

## Senegal

Establishing a Digital Presence to Advance the Rights of Women and Girls

Despite advances made in recent years, women's movements in Senegal are still facing barriers to continuity, funding, mobilizing the population, and ensuring their own long-term viability. To enable women's organizations and networks to make their voices heard, and have greater influence on the laws and policies that affect them, the *Women's Voice and Leadership* project is providing capacity-building support for effective advocacy activities and social monitoring. This year, partner organizations worked with the project to carry out self-assessments, identify their weaknesses and take adapted measures to address them. It was through this process that WIM-Senegal, an organization engaged in promoting and reinforcing women's rights in the mining sector, became aware of its weakness in the area of digital communications. Having made this realization, the organization developed its presence on several social media platforms and launched a new strategic plan to develop digital communications, with the aim of becoming more influential. This project is implemented with financial support from Global Affairs Canada.

## Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda

Identifying Barriers to Girls' Education

Since the mid-90s, conflict in the African Great Lakes region resulted in the death and forced displacement of millions of people. In this region, insecurity and poverty abounds, and limits access to education, especially for women and girls. While the obstacles are known, there is little conclusive data that would help to identify and properly address them. The *Educating Girls for a Better Future in the African Great Lakes Region* project, launched in 2020, aims to introduce a model for analysis, support and innovative follow-up that would empower more than 25,000 girls, teenage girls and women (including women who are refugees, displaced, returned and disabled). Each year, information will be gathered and recorded in a dynamic database, to identify barriers to education as well as the specific needs of young and teenage girls. This data will be analyzed and used to improve monitoring and activity planning. A technical tool will also be implemented to prevent, detect and

raise awareness about gender-based violence, and to refer women to the proper services, be it for medical care, legal services, psychological support or education. This project, conducted in partnership with the Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie, and several local partner organizations, receives financial support from Global Affairs Canada.

Photo  
Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie





# CECI's Actions in Canada

## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPORTS CHARITY CHALLENGE



This year, 125 runners returned to take on the Scotiabank Charity Challenge, running several kilometres, and fundraising for CECI's efforts to promote gender equality around the world! Over \$77,000 was raised in support of our five valiant teams. We would like to give a special mention to the Armande Bégin Fund, which, alone, raised nearly \$59,000 for the event. Those funds were used to support approximately 1,530 Malian women members of 27 associations, and to train more than 3,000 women in areas such as health and nutrition, credit management, commercialization, entrepreneurship and literacy.

APRIL 2019

SEPTEMBER 2019

OCTOBER 2019

JANUARY 2020

## CECI SHOWCASED AT THE ZOOM PHOTO FESTIVAL SAGUENAY

To document the impact of the Uniterria Program, a large audiovisual documentation project was conducted in nine countries where the program operated, producing 33 videos and 44 photo reports. The show was widely broadcast and brought awareness to Canadians about the important role that international cooperation plays in improving the socioeconomic conditions of the world's poorest and most marginalized populations. From October 16 to November 10, several of these reports were shown at the Zoom Photo Festival in Chicoutimi, the largest photo-journalism festival in Canada.



## CLIMATE MARCH

On September 27, more than 7 million people around the world marched in the global climate strike. In Montreal, over 500,000 people took to the streets to march with young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, and demanded that significant, effective measures be taken in response to the climate crisis, at both individual and societal levels, and with support from the government. CECI's staff, members, volunteers and pledging members joined this historic event, both in Canada and in Africa.

## 2020 INTERNATIONAL FORUM: AN ENGAGING EVENT FOR THE FUTURE



The 9<sup>th</sup> annual International Forum, put on by WUSC and CECI, was a unifying event attended by nearly 700 people in Montreal to discuss the theme: "2030 & beyond: Solutions Without Borders." Hundreds of people committed to taking concrete actions to reach sustainable development goals by 2030.

*"For 2030, I committed to learning about the Indigenous communities from the territory where I currently live. I committed to creating spaces where knowledge can be shared, that foster knowledge sharing and harmony. I want to continue living a 'zero waste' life, but also help my friends and family start making this ecological transition."*

LAURA DOYLE PÉAN,  
PARTICIPANT IN THE 2020 INTERNATIONAL FORUM



# A Dedicated and Engaged Community

Congratulations to the CECI Award Winners!

**LALLA KONÉ** received the **Women in Action Award**. As a community expert in gender-based violence prevention, she has played an important role as a mentor and coach in her country, Mali, through the *JUPREC* project. Her renowned expertise in methodologies, approaches and innovative strategies has made it possible to raise awareness among nearly 5,000 people, and mobilize them to protect and promote human rights and gender equality.



**FRÉDÉRIQUE ST-JULIEN DESROCHERS** received the **Rosario Demers Award**. As a volunteer, Ms. Desrochers has greatly contributed to building technical capacities within women's cooperatives in Burkina Faso's shea industry. She has been involved with the *Club des Ambassadrices* and continues to actively support women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment through her many volunteer endeavours.



**CECI's network in 2019-2020**

**92**

Members of the Corporation

**52**

*Club des ambassadrices* members

**523**

Volunteers

**805**

Pledging Members

**15,430**

CECI Newsletter Subscribers

**83**

mentions in Canadian media, reaching a total of around 11 million people

**JOIN CECI'S SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY:**



**11,947**  
followers



**12,509**  
followers



**1,150**  
followers



**4,508**  
followers



**2,140**  
subscribers



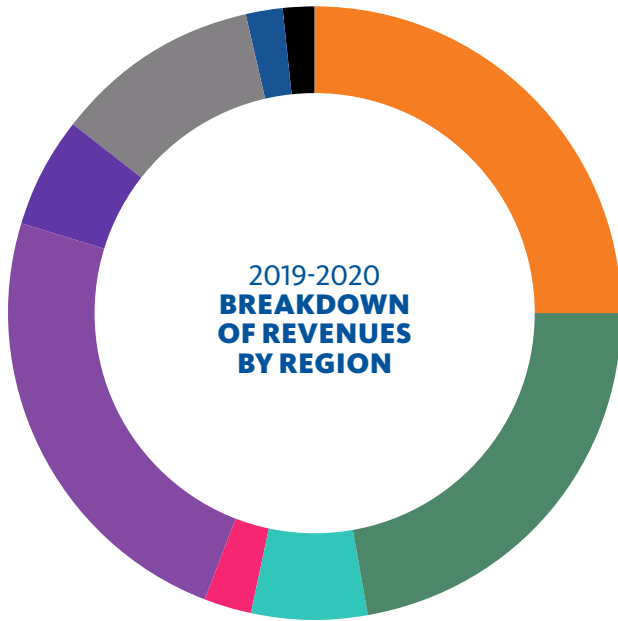
# Financial Information

## CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

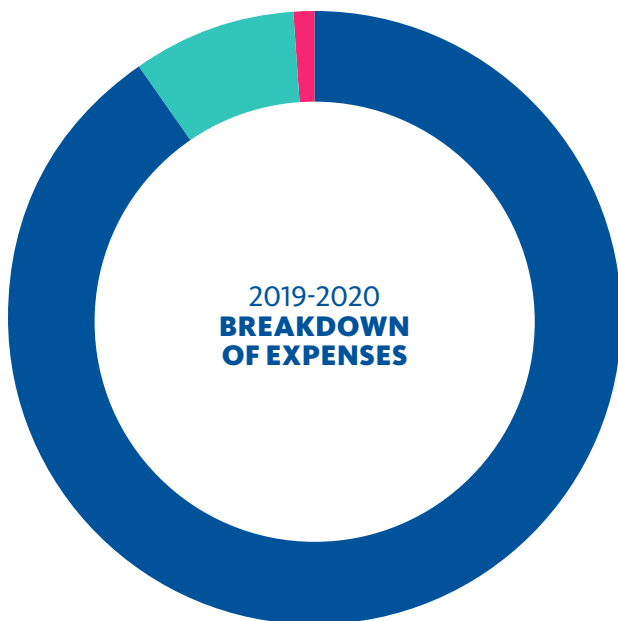
REVENUES	2020	2019
Global Affairs Canada - Partnership	7,788,333	6,581,265
Global Affairs Canada - Bilateral and others	11,580,104	11,385,677
Other donors	13,601,650	15,025,122
Donations	774,592	1,182,356
	<b>33,744,679</b>	<b>34,174,420</b>
<b>OTHER</b>		
Contributed volunteer services	4,188,052	3,559,872
Other revenues	492,826	610,449
	<b>38,425,557</b>	<b>38,344,741</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Programs	30,582,776	30,415,404
Contributed volunteer services	4,188,052	3,559,872
Program development	468,076	670,220
Administration	2,379,470	2,836,652
Fundraising	377,837	414,437
Interest on long-term debt	58,962	74,157
Amortization of tangible capital assets	280,432	281,633
Amortization of intangible assets	67,935	67,932
	<b>38,403,540</b>	<b>38,320,307</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>22,017</b>	<b>24,434</b>

## CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2020	2019
Current	14,477,205	15,703,062
Capital assets	6,253,802	6,096,586
Other assets	928,812	946,442
	<b>21,659,819</b>	<b>22,746,090</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current	12,725,292	15,150,086
Long-term	1,370,616	115,415
Net assets	7,563,911	7,480,589
	<b>21,659,819</b>	<b>22,746,090</b>



Africa	<b>25.2%</b>	9,674,054 \$
Haiti	<b>22.3%</b>	8,557,128 \$
Asia	<b>6.1%</b>	2,326,210 \$
Americas	<b>2.5%</b>	975,054 \$
Uniterria	<b>23.7%</b>	9,110,692 \$
Humanitarian aid	<b>5.9%</b>	2,279,778 \$
Volunteer contribution	<b>10.9%</b>	4,188,052 \$
Fundraising	<b>2%</b>	774,592 \$
Rental income and other	<b>1.4%</b>	539,997 \$



Programs	<b>90.5%</b>	34,770,828 \$
Administration	<b>8.5%</b>	3,254,875 \$
Fundraising	<b>1%</b>	377,837 \$



Thank you to the 2,804 donors and religious communities that supported us this year. Their generous contributions have enabled us to pursue our mission to combat poverty and exclusion!

CECI also wishes to recognize its Canadian and international financial partners:

- Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- World Bank (WB)
- Compagnie des bauxites de Guinée (CBG)
- Roncalli International Foundation (RIF)
- Millenium Challenge Corporation
- Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (Haiti)
- Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques du Québec - Programme de coopération climatique internationale (PCCI)
- Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie (MRIF) - Quebec Without Borders program (QWB) and the Quebec International Development Program
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport (Haiti)
- World Food Program (WFP)
- USAID (United States Agency for International Development) - Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster

## Africa

### BENIN

LIONEL CONSTANT DOLIVEIRA  
CECI–Benin Representative  
lioneld@ceci.ca  
(+229) 96.461.714  
📞 ceciBenin

### BURKINA FASO

NATHALIE NIKIÈMA  
CECI–Burkina Faso Director  
nathalie.nikiema@ceci.ca  
(+226) 25.35.59.85  
📞 ceciBurkina

### GUINEA

RACHEL GOMEZ CAMARA  
CECI–Guinea Director  
rachelgomez@ceci.ca  
(+224) 666.86.40.96 / 622.85.65.65  
📞 CECI–Guinée

### MALI

MAIMOUNA DIONCOUNDA DEMBÉLÉ  
CECI–Mali Director  
maimounad@ceci.ca  
(+223) 20.29.48.44  
📞 ceciMali

### SENEGAL

MOUHAMADOU LEYE  
CECI–Senegal Director  
mouhamadou@ceci.ca  
(+221) 33.825.64.14  
📞 ceciSenegal

## Americas

### BOLIVIA

MARCELA VALLEJOS  
CECI–Bolivia Director  
marcelav@ceci.ca  
(+591) 2.2917162 / 2.2775458  
📞 BoliviaCECI

### GUATEMALA

SILVIA COTTON  
CECI–Guatemala Director  
silviac@ceci.ca  
(+502) 2362.4029 / 2362.4032  
📞 ceciGuatemala

### HAITI

GUYPSY MICHEL  
CECI–Haiti Director  
guypsym@ceci.ca  
(+509) 3481.9715  
📞 CECI–Haiti

## Asia

### NEPAL

SITARAM BHATTA  
CECI–Nepal Director  
SitaramB@ceci.ca  
(+977) 14.41.44.30  
📞 CEClinNepal



3000, RUE OMER-LAVALLÉE  
MONTRÉAL (QUÉBEC) H1Y 3R8  
CANADA  
(+1) 514.875.9911  
TÉLEC. : (+1) 514.875.6469  
info@ceci.ca



ceci.ca

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